DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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BRITISH GENERAL LEARNS FROM NAZIS

Does Sir. John Harding Want New Stalingrad?

The commander of British Troops in West Germany wants to learn from the old nazi generals how to fight Russia, he told correspondents in Bonn on August 6th.

"I think that German military thinking will contribute tremendously to Western defence", stated General Sir John Harding, Commander in Chief of the British Army of the Rhine. "After all the Germans were the ones who fought against the Russians in their own country in the last war."

When a correspondent reminded him that the Soviet Union threw the nazi invaders out, General Harding grinned and replied: "It's never too late to learn the hard way, is it?"

Added importance is given to General Harding's praise for the nazis as "the ones who fought the Russians" by the fact that he is due to become Chief of Imperial General Staff at the end of this year.

General Harding's remarks roused an immediate storm of protest in Britain. Mr Charles West, Chairman of the British Ex-Service Movement for Peace stated:

"We did not fight a war for six years against Hitler to enable a British general to praise 'German military thinking' which brought such havoc to the world."

A serving British soldier, interviewed in Berlin by GERMAN REPORT, said "If General Harding thinks that me and my mates are going to march to Stalingrad under the command of a bunch of nazis, then he's got another think coming. Next thing will be that our brass-hats start learning from the nazis how to make concentration camps and gas-chambers."

For more news of Western Generals see page five

MEAT — EAST & WEST

Meat consumption in the German Democratic Republic, which is steadily increasing, will reach an average of 94 lbs per head this year, official statistics show.

In West Germany meat consumption will only reach about 80 lbs per head, the Bonn Food Minister declared.

Eight Million East Germans Oppose Bonn Treaty

A total of 8,021,856 West Germans had voted up to August 7th in the referendum against the Bonn Treaty and in favour of a real peace treaty with a united Germany, the Working Committee for German Understanding announced.

Biggest participation in the referendum had been in the industrial areas of the Ruhr, where over 1,300,000 people had shown their opposition to a new Wehrmacht by giving their votes. Almost as many votes have been cast in Bavaria. Thousands of voluntary helpers are continuing to take the referendum.

"Hey you! Don't you know you have to salute allied officers?"

(From the National Guardian, New York)

DID HITLER WIN THE WAR?

Nazi Hangman Back at Work

One of Hitler's most blood-stained hangmen is back at work again for the West German government, reports from Bonn state.

He is Dr Manfred Roeder, former chief judge of the German Air Force, who tried and sentenced to death one of the largest underground anti-nazi groups in 1942.

He personally signed 70 death sentences against the antifascist members of this group, known to the Gestapo as the "Rote Kapelle". Those executed on Roeder's orders included Mrs Mildred Harnack-Fish, a member of the board of the American Women's Club, and Adam Kuckhoff, noted writer.

Kuchoff's wife, Frau Greta Kuckhoff, who is today president of the East German State Bank, and who was also one of the defendants in this case, wrote in 1947:

"Roeder produced the death sentences on the conveyor belt system. A little student girl, who had translated an illegal appeal for the man she loved, was sent to die for it. Two young mothers, one of them scarcely 19 years old, were allowed to live on after their husbands had been hung, in order to give birth to their babies in prison. Then they were collected and driven, manacled to the gallows."

Roeder himself attended all the executions, and had a special film made which he then showed to his friends.

After the war a number of attempts were made to bring Roeder to justice, but he had such powerful friends among the western occupation powers that he was not only never tried, but he was "denazifed" without a stain on his character, and his estate at Neetze in the British Zone was returned to him.

Last year Roeder came back into the public eye when he made official application to West German Chancellor Adenauer for political prisoners of the nazi regime to be sent back to prison "to serve the remainder of their sentences from which they were illegally released at the end of the war."

"It will be difficult to rebuild the Wehrmacht so long as such elements are able to go about their work of undermining confidence" he stated in his application.

According to the most recent reports from Bonn Roeder is now employed as a special agent by the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", the cover name used by the West German political police.

Gestapo Chief attacks witness

The former Gestapo chief of Dortmund made a physical attack on a witness who had given evidence against him at a trial for war crimes held in Hagen, British Zone.

In a recess during the hearing the former Gestapo chief Georg Schmidt, hurled himself on the witness, shouting: "We shall fix you. We shall be running things again soon."

Evidence was given that Schmidt and the eleven other members of the Gestapo in the dock had committed hundreds of murders on foreign slave labourers and German anti-fascists. Despite the evidence the court freed Schmidt and ten others, sentencing only one of the accused to eight years imprisonment.

Concentration Camps in West Berlin?

The West Berlin administration plans to confine unemployed workers who have progressive ideas in a new form of concentration camp, it was officially announced.

An order issued by the administration stated:

"Investigations are being made to see whether it is not possible to deny public assistance to supporters of the eastern ideology, and to confine them in special instiutions."

Almost anyone who is dissatisfied with the present West Berlin administration, or who buys goods in East Berlin, can be branded as a "supporter of the eastern ideology."

Nazi Pilots Train on British Planes

Former nazi pilots are being trained on R. A. F. war-planes in the British sector of Berlin, the East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" reports. The pilots are organised in a club calling itself the "Spandau Flight-Technical Association", and use the British airfield at Gatow, the paper stated.

A president they didn't think of in Chicago

The West German old-soldiers' organisation "Stahlhelm" has elected war criminal Field Marshal Kesselring as its president. Kesselring is serving a life sentence in Werl Prison, British Zone, for war crimes which included the mass execution of Italian hostages.

The U. S. financed West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel", commenting on the election, stated "Kesselring always defended the ideals of western culture."

Donnelly wants to Pardon Murderers

The new U. S. High Commissioner in West Germany intends to pardon many nazi war criminals who are serving sentences in the American zone, he told a press conference in Bonn on August 4th.

"I intend to use my right to pardon Germans who have been sentenced for war crimes as often as possible" he stated.

Sweeping Powers for West German Police

The West German Ministry of the Interior is working out the details of a new law which would give the police greater powers than under Hitler, reports from Bonn state.

Under the new law every police station would be permitted to ban without notice any meeting or assembly, and there would be no legal redress for this action. Persons who have organised banned meetings may be deprived in perpetuity of the right to hold meetings.

In addition police officers will be given the right to take action against persons whom they believe to be "acting contrary to state order", whether or not these persons are engaged in an unconstitutional act.

SAMPLE SUB OFFER

Does your Union Secretary read GERMAN REPORT? If not, send us his or her name and address and we shall be glad to mail a sample subcription. This offer is good for the pastor of your church, the editor of your local paper, or anyone else prominent in local life.

E. German Trade Unions Help Build Socialism

The trade unions in East Germany will cooperate in every way in constructing Socialism there, the central board of the Free German Trade Unions decided at a meeting at Berlin at the beginning of August. Leading Activists from the factories attended the meeting and took part in the discussion.

The board took a number of important decisions on the role of the trade unions under the economic conditions prevailing today in the German Democratic Republic. Main points of these decisions were:

a) "The trade unions . . . must win the support of all workers for active participation in Socialist construction, and must support the just interests of each individual worker as well as of workers as a whole."

b) Socialist emulation must be encouraged between individuals, and between brigades, particularly in coal-mining and engineering, on the basis of the mass utilisation of new working methods.

c) Production conferences, which give the workers a real chance to cooperate in planning production, and which train new leading men from the ranks of the workers, must be organised and encouraged.

d) Inventions and improvements proposed by workers must be encouraged in every way.

e) Unskilled workers, particularly women and young people, must be helped in all ways to become qualified workers.

f) The alliance between town and country workers must be strengthened by factory workers becoming patrons of peasant production cooperatives, and by giving help in sowing and harvest.

"The construction of Socialism will mean a steady increase in the standard of living of the workers" the resolution adopted by the board stated. "It is the task of the trade unions to overcome the present irregular mixture of trade union work and administrative work, and to support untiringly the rights and interests of the workers."

The main tasks in this connection were specified as follows:

1. Trade union officials must ensure that every worker is classified in the correct wage group, in accordance with the principle of performance pay.

2. The unions must supervise the strict adherence to safety regulations, and ensure the punishment of those responsible for breaches.

3. The unions must help to extend medical services in every way, particularly with regard to factory clinics and preventive medicine.

4. Encouragement of residential housing building, and delegation of union members to local housing committees to ensure that industrial workers get proper accomodation.

5. Improvement of factory canteens, provision of warm meals for night shifts, etc.

6. More attention to the special interests of young people and women workers.

7. Increased union participation in provision for children of nursery schools, holiday camps, children's libraries etc.

8. More union support for factory sport groups, and for dramatic circles, choirs etc.

The resolution devoted particular attention to the considerable proportion of East German workers still employed in privately owned, not nationally owned, factories.

"New wage scales must be worked out by the unions for the privately owned factories" the resolution stated. "In most branches of industry wages must be examined and revised, and to a certain extent brought to a comparable level with the wages paid in nationally owned industry.

"A large part of the working class works in privately owned factories, and capitalist exploitation still exists in these factories. Thus the main task of the trade unions in the privately owned factories is to defend all the interests of the workers against the capitalists, and to increase the class-conscionsness of the workers."

Berlin Apartments Finished 51 Days Early

Block D of new apartment houses on East Berlin's Stalin Allee was completed on August 2nd, no less than 51 days ahead of schedule.

The block contains 156 dwellings, a row of shops and a large restaurant. The builders of the nationally owned firm which constructed the great block saved more than 414,000 marks during the building by inventing more economical and rational ways of doing their work.

New East-West Trade Agreement

A new trade agreement between East and West Germany providing for the exchange of goods valued at 207 million marks was signed in Berlin on August 1st. Under the agreement the German Democratic Republic will supply lignite, pit-props, chemicals, textiles, office machinery, paper and optical goods. West Germany will supply iron and steel, chemicals, machinery, agricultural produce and canned goods.

One day before the signature of the agreement General V. I. Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission in Germany, had protested to the western High Commissioners against their interference in internal German trade.

He cited the various bans imposed on the transit of steel and other articles from West to East Germany, as well as repressive measures taken against West German firms which traded with East Germany.

"I protest most sharply against all these illegal acts on the part of the American, British and French occupation authorities, and demand the immediate cancellation of all limitations on inner-German trade," General Chuikov's note stated.

"NEW WEHRMACHT WILL PROTECT BRITISH EXPORTS" – ANTHONY EDEN

A new West German Wehrmacht must be formed in order to protect the interests of the British export industry. This astonishing reason for rearming the men who laid Europe in waste ten years ago was given to the British House of Commons on July 31st by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. He stated:

"Let the House remember this: if the Germans take no part in rearmament it would mean that they alone of the free nations would be able to continue to devote their full industrial capacity to civil needs and to the export trade.

"This would accentuate the already-formidable and increasing competition in all the world markets in those very lines of production where we have an established reputation."

Mr Eden was addressing the house on the ratification of the Bonn Treaty. For the first time on a foreign policy question the Labour Party voted in almost full strength against the government on the question of rearming West Germany.

FORD FOUNDATION FUNDS USED TO BURN BRIDGES

Spy Pleads "I Wanted to go to Australia"

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic has passed sentence of death on the explosives expert of the so-called "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity", an American espionage and sabotage organisation partially financed by the "Ford Foundation."

Three other agents of the "Fighting Group", which has its headquarters in West Berlin, received long prison sentences.

The explosives expert, the 28-year-old chemist Wolfgang Kaiser, who was found to be in possession of a loaded automatic, a knuckle-duster and a flask of poison when arrested, testified that he had worked for the "Fighting Group" since spring 1950. First he was engaged in making stink-bombs, which were used to interrupt the meetings of democratic parties, and later was "promoted" to the job of making miniature fire bombs.

Fire-bomb Maker

He constructed large quantities of fire-bombs from thermite and phosphorus, Kaiser told the court, particularly at the time of the World Youth Festival in East Berlin in 1951, which the "Fighting Group" tried to disrupt in every possible way.

In October 1951 he was further "promoted" and was entrusted with the task of making high-explosive bombs. He knew that some of the bombs he made had been used to blow up high-tension electric pylons in Mecklenburg, Kaiser admitted.

He had also prepared the time-bombs which had been used in February of this year in an abortive attempt to blow up the railway bridge at Erkner, and assorted bombs for many other purposes.

In cross-examination Kaiser admitted that he had also been charged with preparing poisoned cigarettes, which were to be used to murder leading persons in the German Democratic Republic.

"I obtained 25 grammes (nearly an ounce) of the strong poison Cantharidin, with which the cigarettes were to be doped", Kaiser said. "One milligramme of this poison is enough to kill, so that the quantity I had was enough to kill 25,000 people."

The married couple Joachim Mueller and Ursula Mueller, sentenced to life-long imprisonment and ten years, respectively, pleaded guilty to a whole series of crimes, including arson and attempts to blow up a key canal lock.

Joachim Mueller first contacted the "Fighting Group" in January 1950, he stated in court. He had wished to emigrate to Australia, and applied to the West Berlin "Refugee Office". They handed him on to a representative of the British Intelligence Service, who after questioning him closely stated that he would only be able to emigrate after he had "given proof of his democratic tendencies". The British Intelligence officer sent him to the offices of the "Fighting Group".

Bridge Burner

After carrying out various spy jobs for the group, he attempted to set fire to a wooden-bridge on one of the main motor highways leading to Berlin. The destruction of the bridge would have created considerable difficulties for the World Youth Festival in Berlin. The attempt only failed because passing cyclists saw the blaze beginning and summoned the fire brigade.

At the time of his arrest Mueller and his wife were making final preparations to blow up the Paretz lock on the Nauen canal. The destruction of this lock would have disorganised the inland waterways of the German Democratic Republic, and flooded over 100,000 acres of Land.

The fourth accused, Kurt Hoppe, who was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, supplied the "Fighting Group" with large quantites of secret information from the main Finance Office in Potsdam, where he worked. In January 1952 he put into practice a cunning scheme to sabotage the book-keeping branches of many large industrial undertakings by sending them forged tax notices, false notices of alleged special tax reductions, and similar documents.

People Protect Socialism

Summing up after pronouncing sentence, Frau Hilde Benjamin, Vice-President of the Supreme Court, who conducted the trial, stated:

"Our courts see that justice is done in the name of the people. In the past weeks the working people of the German Democratic Republic have repeatedly shown their thanks to the police, the security forces, and the courts for tearing the mask from these various criminal organisations such as the 'Fighting Group' and the 'Free Jurists'.

"The working people are indignant at the attempts to destroy what they have built up for themselves in the past few difficult years. That is why the workers themselves have taken measures to protect their property, their Socialist property. They have taken their factories, their building sites and their machines under their personal protection, in order to ensure the construction of Socialism."

More U. S. Agents Sentenced

East German courts have sentenced many more members of the American financed spy organisation "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists" to long terms of imprisonment.

In Halle five men, all of whom pleaded guilty to economic espionage directed against the German Democratic Republic, received sentences ranging from ten years imprisonment to life imprisonment. Christian Koehler, who received the life term, stated in court that he had been ready to do anything to overthrow the East German state so that he could regain possession of the big family estate, confiscated in the course of land reform.

In Dresden five agents of the "Free Jurists" organisation were sent to prison for terms ranging from 13 to 5 years, after pleading guilty to military and economic espionage.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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Special Facilities for Peasant Production Cooperatives

The East German government has granted a whole series of special facilities to the newly formed peasant production cooperatives which are springing up throughout East Germany. Tractor stations will work the cooperative fields at special cheap rates, and the cooperatives will have priority in the supply of fertilisers and seed. For the first two years of their existence these cooperatives will be freed from the tax normally levied on all cooperative organisations.

Individual peasants joining the cooperatives will have a ten percent reduction in the quantities of grain, etc., which they have to deliver to the state at fixed prices; they will have a 25 percent tax reduction for 1952; and debts which they incurred to the state as a result of the land reform in 1945 will be cancelled.

Soviet Soldiers Help German Harvest

Soviet soldiers stationed in East Germany are helping the peasants to get in a record harvest this year.

In the Muehlhausen area, for instance, three Soviet soldiers who in civil life work on a collective farm have been showing the local tractor station how to get the best out of the new harvesting combines supplied this summer by the Soviet Union.

Using the practical hints given by his Soviet friends, combine driver Rohrbach was able to double the area harvested, and to bring in over 20 acres of barley in a six hour period.

East German Workers Spend Holidays Abroad

Workers from East Germany are spending holidays in trade union holiday homes in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. In exchange 200 outstanding workers from Czechoslovakia, 150 from Hungary and 100 from Poland are enjoying holidays on Germany's Baltic coast.

JUST ASK FOR THEM

A few copies of most early issues of GERMAN REPORT are still available. We shall be glad to send you a small bundle for distribution to people whom you think should be learning the truth about Germany today.

EXCLUSIVE TO GERMAN REPORT:

THE TALE OF TWO GENERALS

General Number 1. "Wild Bill" Donovan Confers with agents in Berlin

Major-General William J. Donovan, former U. S. spy chief, visited West Berlin secretly at the end of July to confer with leaders of the "Free Jurists", one of the main American espionage and sabotage organisations in the city.

News of the visit leaked out when the Association of the Bar of the City of New York incautiously told enquiring newsmen that General Donovan was one of the delegates attending the congress called by the Free Jurists in West Berlin.

General Donovan, who headed the American "Office of Strategic Services" from 1942 to 1945, is a colouful figure, as his nickname "Wild Bill" shows, and he is generally good copy for newsmen when he travels. In this case however no single newspaper in West Berlin mentioned his presence at the conference, and the news black-out appears to have been effective in the Anglo-American press as a whole.

Other American delegates to the conference, none of whom were mentioned in the press reports, included Dudley B. Bonsal, member of the Wall Street law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt and Mosle. At the annual meeting of the New York Bar Association on May 13th 1952 Mr. Bonsal submitted a report on the protection of American investments abroad. The report urged establishment of an international commission to protect individual holders of private property abroad.

General Number 2. The Spy with a Diary

On March 14th 1952 GERMAN REPORT carried extracts from the diary of General Robert R. Grow, American Army attaché in Moscow, who had used his post to carry out spy work and had made diary entries about it.

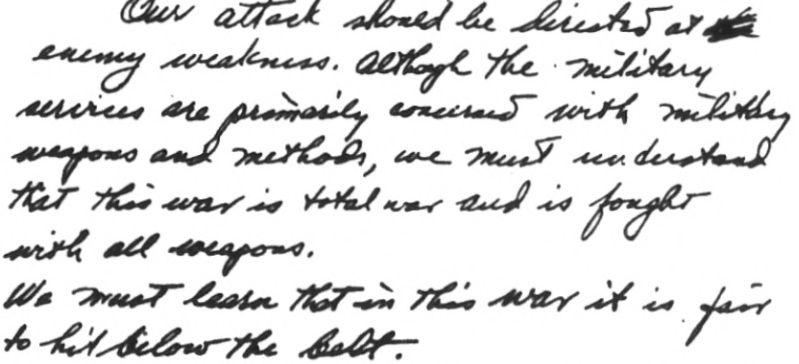
On July 29th General Grow appeared before a general court-martial in Washington and was reprimanded and suspended from command for six months for "failure to safeguard military information."

One day later the U. S. Army issued a long statement claiming that the diary had been "deliberately distorted to put the United States in the role of warmongering".

Specifically the U. S. Army claimed that the following two quotations "do not appear in the diary".

"Our attack should be directed at enemy weakness. Although the military services are primarily concerned with military weapons and methods, we must understand that this war is total war and is fought with all weapons."

"We must learn that in this war it is fair to hit below the belt."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to hit below the belt.

Here are these passages in photographic copies from General Grow's diary itself, in the General's own handwriting. We leave it up to our readers to decide who is guilty of deliberate distortion.

Long extracts from General Grow's diary were published in GERMAN REPORT No. 5 dated March 14th. We have a few copies still available for anyone who writes in. American readers interested can purchase "The Diary of General Grow", published at 25c. by Hour Publishers, Box 107, Murray Hill Sta., New York 16.

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE

By George Wheeler

The author of this article held the rank of colonel in the American Military Administration in Germany for the first two years after the war.

For the past few years he has been living and working in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He recently paid a visit to the Democratic Sector of Berlin.

There are big goings-on in Germany these days. I am not referring to the fact that Hjalmar Schacht, whose dubious financial transactions assisted Hitler to gain and retain power, is back at the old stand trying to open a new million mark bank in Hamburg. I am not even referring to the attempts of Adenauer to get the West German parliament to swallow the Bonn treaty which would divide Germany, turn it into a Wall Street colony and war base and deprive the German people of their national sovereignty. Those are events of world-wide significance, events of the kind that drive many decent people to despair.

Satisfied smile

Fortunately the big changes that I can report from the German Democratic Republic, and from the Democratic Sector of Berlin are of quite a different character. They too are of world significance, but of the kind that make the Berlin worker drop off to sleep with a smile on his face. These changes are so great that everyone here is aware of them. But perhaps they seem more striking to me because this is my second trip back to Germany — and there seems to have been as much improvement in the last year in food and clothing and elsewhere as there was in the four years before.

Yesterday I had dinner with some German friends and we were recalling the grim years from 1945 through 1947. Now it was their treat and they were happy to offer me a choice of pheasant and turkey. I chose turkey for sentimental reasons, and was happy that it turned out to be better than the Army cold storage turkey with which we had celebrated in the old days.

Vision of Future

We recalled the terrible cold of the winter of 1946-47 when the air froze the inside of ones nostrils and a deep breath burned like fire. Then my friends had no coal and the damp Berlin fog drifted through the broken windows of their flat. The whole apartment became clammy and frozen. Part of the time there were no lights, and when they burned they were cheerlesly dim.

Despite this, and poor health from long years in prison, my friends, and thousand of others like them in East Germany, had kept on working with a passion that could only come from a vision of a much better future. Today they can already see parts of their dreams come true, and they know without any doubts that the rest is just a matter of time and more work and planning — and above all, peace.

What are these changes? Some of them are intangible, such as changes in character, the change from a fascist mentality to a democratic one in the best sense of the word. This is something difficult to measure, but no one who has seen the Nazis and who sees the people here today, especially the youth, can doubt that the difference is like that between vinegar and good wine. This is undoubtedly the greatest achievement so far in the German Democratic Republic. It is a transformation for the better that belies all the pessimistic saws that "Human nature can't be changed." There are of course, still some hard Nazi faces, but their number is declining.

Returning factories

There are other changes of a totally different kind, changes that can not be seen as you walk along the street but which affect the whole development of the German nation. The Soviet Government has returned to the German people more of the plants which were awarded to it as reparations under the Potsdam agreement. In contrast to West Germany these plants did not revert to the control of the monopolists who sponsored the last war, but to the public administration of the people for peaceful production. These are the same plants about which so many tons of newsprint in the west were used in making the false charge of "Soviet imperialism" when Soviet administrations were established just after the war. Now I wonder if the same press will even mention the fact that they have been given back to the German people.

There have been several wage increases and price cuts since I was here last. The latest wage rise, on July 1st, was a big one for the skilled workers and intellectuals. For the miners, who head the list of increases for the workers, the increases range up to double the previous rates.

There are still some shortages here. Coffee is hard to get but it has been for fifteen years and it must seem more important to a visitor than it is. There is still a bigger demand for shoes than can be met, although the improvement in quality of shoes is one of the most obvious changes since 1947. The quality of clothes and fabrics has so improved that the people will no longer buy at any price the shoddy stuff that they were queueing up for or buying in the black market four years ago. The State clothing stores are full of people and they are not just looking, but buying in huge amounts.

Better beer

One of the nicest changes to see and taste is in the foods available. The beer is much better, even if still not up to the Czech brews, but few beers anywhere are up to Pilsner. I wondered why so many people were buying ice cream, and found that it was not only lower in price than it had been, but had again been improved in quality. This started me on a scientific investigation. I stopped in a cookie and cake shop to see if there was enough fat and sugar in these products. I was pleasantly surprised and continued my research until I realized that my sample was more than adequate and I was rationalizing my sweet tooth.

Still, I could wander around observing what other people were buying. At the Wurst and Salami counter in the big food store, where the old Woolworths "Five and Dime" used to be, was a list of 27 different kinds — I did not try them all, but it was easy to see that they were not the cereal filled casings of 1945-7. I had seen the crowd around the meat counter in the morning — and by 7 : 15 in the evening the butchers were still cutting off thick slabs of meat, mostly pork, which is the favorite meat here.

Fine bread

Those who have seen and tasted the miserable, sodden, moldy cement-mixture bread that the people here (and elsewhere in Europe) were eating after the war would have shared my pleasure at the display of breads. There were no less than eight kinds, not counting innumerable types of rolls. I wonder how long it will be before we in America catch on and demand such bread and rolls.

All over the Democratic Sector of Berlin rubble clearing and building is going on. Where before there was a jungle of twisted rubble there are now cleared places and even green

spots of grass. Everywhere brigades of people are working clearing up the rubble. Recently I read in the "New York Times" that the new plan to clear away the rubble was only a flash in the pan and that now only a few people turned out. Before I came here I felt a little sad at this report — now I realize that once more I had been taken in by a false story. Instead of less enthusiam, it is growing. And this is only natural as the results begin to show up and it is clear that Berlin can be turned into a "Worthy Capital for a United Socialist Germany" as one sign put it. In the model of this reconstructed and new city even the Cathedral, which now rears up as a huge, bombgutted ruin (Yes, it was one of our American bombs) appears with great dignity.

But the most interesting, and probably the most significant of all the construction projects are those along Stalin Allee. Here for nearly a mile along both sides of what will be the main East-West highway are rising modern apartment houses. This whole project, from the labor in it to the elevators, is "outside the Five Year Plan." There are seven to twelve storey buildings and they were started after the beginning of 1952. Some of them are already completed and people are living in them. The rest will be ready before the end of the year. Since I first saw the project a week ago a whole storey has been added to many of the buildings. The speed of construction is in part due to the adoption of the new Polish and Soviet methods of laying bricks, and to an increasing extent to new Soviet methods of prefabrication and other labor-saving devices.

The other reason that the work is going ahead with such speed is that everyone concerned knows that the sooner the houses are built the sooner they can move in. The houses are awarded on a rational basis, with priority going to those who are the best workers on the project and at the same time are most in need. Frau Richter, at whose door we knocked at random, proudly showed us their three room flat. Her husband had twice been awarded the prize as the best worker of one of the construction companies. In addition he had to travel three hours a day when living at the old place. Now Mrs. Richter thinks that she will go to work until the furniture is paid for. There is a kindergarten in the project for her two children.

The city architects point out that the next houses will be even better. Again I could not help contrasting these fine new flats with central heating, electric stoves, built in fixtures in the kitchen, and every room big and light, with the crowded, bomb damaged flats that most workers must still live in. It is no wonder that the workers of the Democratic Sector are so pleased with their "Stalin Allee.".

Still it is good that the city planners are not satisfied with these dwellings, and that they point out that this is only one street in the entire city — and they are planning for a united city. They are planning fo a united city just as most Germans, East and West, are planning for a united Germany. It is no more rational to attempt to split Germany at the Elbe than it would be for some power to try to split the United States along the Mississippi. The sooner Wall Street wakes up to that fact the better off the world will be. National unity and freedom remain the goals of the German Democratic Republic.

British Friends of Peace Unite Against New Wehrmacht

The danger of the establishment of a new nazi Wehrmacht in West Germany has brought together friends of peace of all shades of opinion in Britain.

Quakers and other pacifists have joined together for the first time with the British Peace Commitee in the face of this danger to form the "British Commitee for the Peaceful Solution of the German Problem."

The following organisations are represented on the Committee:

National Peace Council, Peace Pledge Union, Friend's Peace Committee, British Peace Committee, British Council for German Democracy and the Musicians' Organisation for Peace.

Other groups, including the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Authors' World Peace Appeal are sending observers.

The Committee will campaign against British ratification of the Bonn Treaty, and for the widest British representation at an international conference on the problem scheduled for autumn in Berlin.

Secretary of the Committee is John Elton, 6 Pump Court, Temple, London E. C. 4, England.

Workers Refuse Arms Work

The 1600 workers of the Engels Factory in Velbert, British Zone, unanimously rejected work on an order for 20,000 shell casings. The firm thereupon rejected the contract.

WHY NO PHOTOS IN GERMAN REPORT?

Because the job of telling the story of the new Germany in pictures is very ably done by the photo-magazine "German Democratic Republic in Construction", published every two months by the East German Information Office

Photographs in monocrome and colour show the work of building Socialism in the German Democratic Republic.

Readers in Britain should order the magazine from Collet's Subscription Dept., 45 Museum St, London W. C. 1., at 10/6 yearly, 5/6 half yearly.

Readers in other countries should order from progressive booksellers. In case of difficulty, write to: Information Office of the German Democratic Republic, 8—9 Thaelmann Platz, Berlin W 1.

"Freedom to Fish"

A French military court in Reutlingen, French Zone, has sentenced a German farmer to three weeks imprisonment for "actions directed against the occupation forces."

The farmer's "action" had been to cast his fishing line in his own brook immediately beside the line of a French colonel — and to catch more and bigger fish.

British Youth in East German Holiday Camp

Twenty-five young workers from Britain were among the hundreds of youth from 14 nations who met for a two week holiday at the central tent camp of the Free German Youth at Bad Saarow in East Germany at the beginning of August.

There they had a chance to get to know and like youth from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, France, Italy and many other countries.

"We have never had such a marvellous time in our lives", was the unanimous verdict of all the Britons in the camp.

Yank shot hits Berlin Child

A seven year old West Berlin girl was seriously injured by an American shell which exploded on the public bathing beach at Wansee, West Berlin on August 5th.

West Berliners have frequently protested about American "defence exercises" which have turned public parks and woods in the American Sector into death traps.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"Is it true that English lessons have been banned in East German schools?" a correspondent asked me in a recent letter.

No, it is not true, and about half the pupils in high schools get a very good knowledge of the language in four year courses.

I have just been looking at the books they use, and I can testify that the reading books give them not only a wide range of good classical and colloquial English texts, but also very interesting reading matter.

Lots of Shakespeare

These readers, two volumes published by the "Volk und Wissen" educational publishers in East Berlin, start off with fifty pages of Shakespeare, and continue with a fine variety of extracts from Milton, King Charles I, Samuel Butler and Winstanley on the Civil War and Commonwealth period.

Twenty-five pages are devoted to a fascinating collection of texts from the American war of independence, including the Declaration of Independence in full, a large chunk of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech, and some fine quotations from Thomas Jefferson and Tom Paine.

(I must admit that reading these extracts gave me a clearer idea of some aspects of the American revolution that I got at school in Britain.)

The second volume provides a quick cross-section of some of the best literature in English in the last three centuries. The authors represented include Swift, Goldsmith, Wordsworth, Shelley, Byron, Dickens, Walt Whitman, Melville, Mark Twain and Stephen Crane.

The literature of this century gets a good showing too, with longish extracts from Galsworthy, Shaw, Theodore Dreiser, Langston Hughes and Sinclair Lewis.

It seems a pretty good selection to me. The boys and girls who get these readers will not only learn English from the finest writers of the language. They will learn a lot of very good sense at the same time.

Creepy Flesh

The Associated Press correspondent in Berlin tried to make the flesh of readers throughout the western world creep on July 29th with a dispatch stating:

"The East German government has decreed that no one may leave his home for more than twenty-four hours without telling the police ... Anyone who wants to go away for three days must first get police permission."

Now it just happens that I have travelled away from my home in East Berlin to a cottage which I have rented in the country, an hour's drive away. I certainly did not get any sort of police permission, and I am sure that the police at my local station would think I was mad if I believed the A. P. story and went and asked for it.

As in most European countries, you are expected to register at the local office when you take up residence at a new address, so I went down to the police station in the village on the first day I was here. There I found a notice on the door that the registration bureau was only open on Mondays and Thursdays.

On the following Monday I was busy, so my wife went down and registered for us both. She had not got my identity card with her, so the policeman in the office suggested that I should bring it by some time, "but there is no hurry" he said.

Caminada's Nets

My favourite unreliable correspondent, Mr Caminada of the London "Times" has been seeing things again. Writing in the July 30th issue of his paper he has a heart-rending story of "closing nets" and "tightening grips" in East Germany as "refugees pour into West Berlin."

"Wearing the shabby, unkempt clothes that are an everyday uniform in East Germany" writes Mr Caminada describing the "refugees".

Now this is just silly. The textiles position in the German Democratic Republic is not as good as it will be, and suits and dresses are not yet of the very highest quality, but it would be hard to find anyone of the streets looking shabby and unkempt.

After all, there is full employment in East Germany, and suits and dresses, at pre-war prices, have been on unrationed sale for a long time.

If Mr Caminada wants to see some really shabby and unkempt people I would suggest that he go to one of the unemployment exchanges in West Berlin where the 300,000 West Berliners who are unemployed queue up for their meagre unemployment pay.

The London "Times" was only one of the newspapers which gave prominent attention to stories of unprecedented floods of fugitives pouring into West Berlin.

I do not think that it was a coincidence that the regular trickle of malcontents and misfits suddenly increased one day after heavy jail sentences had been imposed upon several agents of the American espionage organisation "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists".

Spies with Cold Feet

Other former nazis and criminals who had been acting as undercover agents of the "Free Jurists" in East Germany suddenly got cold feet, and decided that they would seek their fortune in the west rather than wait for the very efficient People's Police to catch them at their spying and sabotage.

People like this are citizens that the German Democratic Republic can well do without, and no one will weep over their departure.

For every one fugitive, thousands more ordinary decent people remained at work, building up a better future for themselves and their children.

Whose Iron Curtain?

A couple of weeks ago eleven boys from the main school in Koepenick, in East Berlin, equipped with striped jersies and a football, turned up at a school in Friedenau, American sector, to play a pre-arranged game of football.

"East against West at football: that is high treason" said the local education officer, and sent 30 policemen armed with truncheons and revolvers down to the football ground to stop the game.

Whereupon the schoolboys from East Berlin and their friends from West Berlin packed up their jersies and their football boots, took a street-car to Koepenick, and played out their game in the Democratic Sector.

The tragic part of this little comedy is that this was happening inside one city at a time when sportsmen from almost every country in the world were competing against each other in remarkable amity at the Olympic Games in Helsinki.

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